

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 131045Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1131

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0436

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: STATE 013264

1. TARGET OF "MORE CONTINUOUS AND EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS/ DURING YEAR ON REFERENCED SUBJECT CLEARLY HIGHLY DESIRABLE. BASED ON EXPERIENCE HERE, HOWEVER, WE UNCERTAIN WHETHER PLACING PRIMARY RELIANCE ON FIELD POSTS LIKELY PROVE AS EFFECTIVE AS WE WOULD ALL HOPE. WHEN AMBASSADOR BRIEFED FONOFF USEC MIRGHANI FEB 10 RE HELPFUL POINTS PARA 5 REFTTEL, MIRGHANI'S REACTION WAS DEFINITELY AMBIVALENT. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME CONSULTATION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS FEASIBLE BUT STRESSED THAT ANY APPROACH BASED SIMPLY ON IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO SUBJECT MIGHT EVEN MAKE GOS LESS, RATHER THAN MORE, LIKELY TO SUPPORT US. THIS WOULD BE BECAUSE OF SUDANESE SENSITIVITY TO ANY CHARGES OF YIELDING TO USG "PRESSURE".

2. WHILE ALL STATES NATURALLY TAKE ACCOUNT UN VOTES IN THEIR SUBSEQUENT RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, MIRGHANI ASSERTED IT FAR PREFERABLE IF THIS LINKAGE REMAINS TACIT. HE WONDERED WHETHER NEW USG LINE MIGHT MEAN

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THAT STATES MUST ALWAYS SUPPORT USG OR SUFFER. AMBASSADOR

RESPONDED THAT OUR APPROACH WAS NEITHER NEW NOR SPECIFICALLY PUNITIVE. WE SIMPLY FELT THAT BLOC VOTING AT UN HAD SOMETIMES COME TO RELECT MORE THE VIEWS WITHIN PARTICULAR GROUPS THAN SPECIFIC ATTITUDES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. WERE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH WHAT THEY MIGHT SEE AS LACK OF SERIOUSNESS IN UN DELIBERATIONS, CONSEQUENCES COULD BE UNFORTUNATE. MIRGHANI ANSWERED THAT GOS ALWAYS VOTES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN INTERESTS. FOR USG TO EXPECT SUPPORT SIMPLY BECAUSE AN ISSUE IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO US MIGHT BE NEITHER FULLY REALISTIC NOR HELPFUL TO WHAT USG EVIDENTLY TRYING TO DO. AMBASSADOR NOTED WE DO NOT EXPECT UNCRITICAL SUPPORT ACROSS THE BOARD BUT RATHER THAT STATES SHOULD WEIGH THEIR VOTES CAREFULLY ON THE RELATIVELY FEW ISSUES ANNUALLY WHICH ARE OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE USG, AS A GLOBAL POWER, THAN TO MOST UN MEMBERS. MIRGHANI INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD BUT DID NOT ACCEPT THIS POSITION.

3. EVEN IF USG WERE CURRENTLY EXTENDING ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, WE DOUBT THIS FACT ALONE WOULD MATERIALLY INCREASE OUR LEVERAGE HERE ON UN VOTES. MIRGHANI'S REMARKS CERTAINLY MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR GREATEST CHANCE OF ACHIEVING MODICUM OF GOS SUPPORT LIES IN DISCUSSING ISSUES EARLY ON SPECIFIC MERITS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT GOS INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS DELEGATION ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. THIS SUGGESTS TO US THAT MAJOR EFFORT WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO BE MADE IN NEW YORK IF BYZANTINE BLOC VOTING IS TO BECOME A THING OF THE PAST. BREWER

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